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Message Text

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40
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03

OMB-01 EB-11 AID-20 DRC-01 /108 W
---------- 061910
R 250939Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4394
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PK, BM
SUBJ: VISIT OF BURMESE PRESIDENT

REF: ISLAMABAD 3204

SUMMARY: BURMESE PRESIDENT NE WIN PAID FOUR-DAY GOODWILL VISIT TO PAKISTAN. JOINT COMMUNIQUE FOCUSSED ON THIRD WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

1. BURMESE PRESIDENT NE WIN PAID "GOODWILL" VISIT TO PAKISTAN APRIL 20 THROUGH 23. NEW WIN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER HLA PHONE, TWO MEMBERS OF COUNCIL OF STATE AND NUMBER OF LESSER BURMESE OFFICIALS.

2. IN ADDITION TO MEETINGS WITH GOP PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER IN CAPITAL PLUS USUAL ROUND OF BANQUETS, NE WIN VISITED LAHORE, TAXILA BUDDHIST MONUMENTS AND TARBELA DAM SITE. NE WIN WAS ESCORTED THROUGHOUT HIS VISIT BY SOLE BUDDHIST MEMBER OF GOP CENTRAL CABINET, MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND MINORITY AFFAIRS RAJA TRIDEV ROY.

3. AT APRIL 21 DINNER HOSTED BY PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO,
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LATTER PRAISED NE WIN'S "CONTRIBUTIONS" DURING INDO-PAK

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1971 CONFLICT AND TERMED HIM "GOOD FRIEND OF PAKISTAN". REPLYING, NE WIN SAID HE CONSIDERED BHUTTO "LIKE A BROTHER". MEDIA GAVE VISIT FAIRLY EXTENSIVE COVERAGE, EMPHASIZING KINDRED SOCIALIST IDOLOGY OF BURMESE GOVERNMENT AND COMMON THIRD WORLD TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

4. JOINT NE WIN-BHUTTO COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT CONTAINED USUAL PLATITUDES. FOLLOWING SUB-STANTIVE POINTS WERE HIGHLIGHTED: (A) CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED OVER TENSIONS IN MIDDLE EAST, AND THE TWO LEADERS WELCOMED STEPS BEING TAKEN TO PROMOTE DISENGAGEMENT; (B) BHUTTO STATED THAT LAHORE ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE IDENTIFIED PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES WITH THIRD WORLD STRUGGLE AGAINST EXISTING "INEQUITABLE" INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER; (C) CONVICTION EXPRESSED THAT COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WAS NECESSARY TO OVERCOME CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES; (D) RIGHTS OF ALL COUNTRIES TO SOVEREIGNTY AND FULL CONTROL OVER NATURAL RESOURCES REAFFIRMED; (E) NE WIN WELCOMED TRIPARTITE DELHI AGREEMENT AND RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH BY PAKISTAN AS CONTRIBUTING TO PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE REGION. (FULL TEXT POUCHED RANGOON, NEA/PAB AND EA/TBM) BHUTTO ACCEPTED INVITATION TO VISTI BURMA AT UNSPECIFIED FUTURE DATE.

5. COMMENT: VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN PRIMARILY GOOD-WILL VISIT, AS ADVERTISED, WITH LITTLE SUBSTANCE BEYOND EXCHANGE OF THIRD WORLD CREDENTIALS. NONETHELESS, VISIT WAS PROBABLY CONSIDERED USEFUL BY BHUTTO IN HIS QUEST TO ESTABLISH PAKISTAN (AND HIMSELF) IN A POSITION OF GREATER VISIBILITY IN THIRD WORLD.
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